

**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY French Morocco

DATE DISTR. 15 September 1948

SUBJECT Communist Party in French Morocco

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- 1. Party Strength:** Source claims that there are approximately 85,000 Europeans and 200,000 Moslems and Jews in the Communist Party of French Morocco. When it was then suggested that these figures seem exaggerated, the source pointed out that the numerical strength of the Party is not evident because non-European Communists are largely without the right to vote and, at any rate, instructed not to disclose their party membership. By remaining under cover, they avoid repressive measures which might be undertaken by virtue of a decree which forbids Moroccans to join political parties of any kind. Only in a crisis would the exact strength of the Party be revealed to impress or intimidate the rest of the populace.
- 2. Finances:** A ten percent levy on the wages of members supplies the Moroccan Communist Party with most of its funds. The source implied that this partly explains its relentless campaign for higher wages. Additional funds are raised by drives, carnivals and the like. Sums of money are also received from Soviet sources and from a large reserve in France which was established from assets confiscated by Communist resistance groups at the time of the liberation.
- 3. The Party Line Directed at Moslems:** In contrast to the neutrality of Party papers in which the war in Palestine is no more than deplored and laid to Western imperialism, the word-of-mouth propaganda spread among Moslems takes on a decided pro-Arab slant. It is made clear that Soviet recognition of Israel is not irrevocable. It was done to foil imperialist ambitions in the Near East and to strengthen the Party in Palestine. American recognition of Israel is decried as a manifestation of Near Eastern policy dictated by the Jewish capitalists who control the American oil concessions.
- 4. Party Leadership:** The Moroccan Communist Party is controlled by Europeans. Impressive titles which mean very little have been given to Moslems to foster native membership.

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5. Top Leaders

AYACHE, Germain. French. Teaches Greek at the Lycee Lyautey in Casablanca. Member of Central Committee of Moroccan Communist Party. Cell leader. Communist candidate in 1947.

BOINET, Henri. French. Lawyer in Casablanca. Member of Central Committee of Moroccan Communist Party. Cell leader. Communist candidate in 1947.

CAPAZZA, Jean. Journalist in Casablanca. Cell leader. A leading propagandist for the party.

COMBEREAU, Victor. French. Director of Ecole de Garcons du Palmier in Casablanca. Cell leader. Honorary president of Auberges de Jeunesse and president of Secours Populaire Marocain, both Communist front organizations.

FAUREL, Jean. French. History teacher at the Lycee Lyautey in Casablanca. Cell leader.

FOURNIOT, Roger. French. Lawyer of Casablanca. Cell leader.

HAZELLA, Michel. French. Journalist. Cell leader. Secretary and actual leader of the Party in French Morocco.

HAZELLA, Mme Lucette. French. Journalist and teacher. Member of political Bureau of Moroccan Communist Party. Communist candidate in 1947. Secretary general of Communist-front Union des Femmes du Maroc. Cell leader.

6. Secondary Leaders

ASSONS, Georges. Propagandist among workers.

COROS, fnu. Spanish. Committee member of Centro Espanol in Casablanca. Propagandizes Spanish refugees.

COMBEREAU, Mme Victor. President of Union Marocaine des Femmes. Organized Soupes Populaires and Service de Secours a l'Enfance Malheureuse.

DOS REIS, fnu. French. Employee of the Office of Education in the French Residency at Rabat. Administrative council member of Auberges de Jeunesse.

GEROVITCH, Rachmil. Alias ROMAIN. French citizen of Russian origin. Soldier of International Brigade during Spanish Civil War. Inspector General of Auberges de Jeunesse, responsible for purging anti-Communists.

PERRIN, Jean-Albert. French. Employee of Rabat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

PERRIN, Mme Vera. Speaks fluent French, Russian, Polish, and German. Collaborates with husband.

TAPIERO, fnu. Propagandizes Moslems.

TAPIERO, Mme. Propagandizes Moslem women.

VIERIN, Dante. Italian. Founder and president of Jeunesses Democratiques Italiennes. Recruits Party members from Italian colony at Casablanca.

VIERIN, Mme. Dante. Moe Irene SCHORR. Russian born in Germany about 1918. Reports on white Russians.

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Moslem leaders

YATA, Ali. Secretary General of Moroccan Communist Party. Under the thumb of French Communist leaders. Average intelligence. Well educated. Successful propagandist. In spite of a campaign against him by Moslems and Residency officials he has been able to establish a reputation as defender of the common people. Disappeared in July 1948 when his arrest was ordered in connection with the illegal distribution of Communist propaganda through the mail. Present whereabouts unknown, but he is reported to have fled to Algeria or to have left for Central Europe to attend a Cominform meeting.

BOURQUIA, Abdousslam. One of three Secretaries of the Party. Under control of the French Secretaries, Michel LAFAYE and Henri LAFAYE. Fairly intelligent and well educated. Useful propagandist. Die-hard Communist.

ALAOU, Larbi alias FRANK. Brilliant mind. Cultured and well educated. Through persuasive propaganda, he has succeeded in winning over all of his three brothers and many intellectuals to the Party cause. In 1947 the Sultan ordered him either to cease his Communist activities or to change his name which he was disgracing as a member of the royal Alaouite family. He took the name of FRANK.

ALAOU, Ahmed. Fair education. Ardent Communist.

SEBAI, Larbi. Secretary of the Meknes Section of the Party. Was to be deported by the Residency but the Party successfully intervened to prevent his arrest.

KHELLADI, Mohamed. Teacher at the College Musulman at Rabat. Committee president of the Auberges de Jeunesse.

TAHRI, Mohamed Abdelaziz. Merchant of Casablanca. Comes from a wealthy family. Charged with Communist tracts in Arabic. Sent to Belgrade by Party in 1947 as a delegate to the World Congress of Democratic Youth.

AYACHI, Halima Bent. Committee member of the Union des Femmes du Maroc. Successful in recruiting a large number of Moslem women for this organization.

AYACHI, Fatima Bent. Average intelligence but devoted to the Party. She concentrates on the servant class of Moslem women.

Other leaders

HANDY, Guillard, Mrs. Cultured and intelligent woman. Her mission is to counteract anti-Communist opinion among official and upper class Europeans in Casablanca. She was the assistant to Mr. FELTER of Fez who presided over the 4th Congress of the Union Generale des Syndicats Confederes du Maroc at Marrakech on 30 November 1946.

CAPPELLI, Mrs. Attractive and cultured. Instructed not to reveal her Communist sentiments, but is to counteract anti-Communist opinion among upper class Europeans.

LEROY, Andre. Founder and Secretary of the Syndicat des Employes de la Marine. President of the Amicale des Parisiens de Casablanca. Member of the Bureau and Executive Committee of the Party and a Secretary of the Union Generale des Syndicats Confederes du Maroc. Spoke at the 4th Congress of Union Generale at Marrakech on 30 November 1946.

LEROY, Mme. Andre, Nece Marcelle LEMAIRE. Stupid but ardent Communist.

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AYACHE, Clairette. Stenographer at Casablanca.

AZANCOT, Jacques. Mechanic at Foucauld. Former propaganda agent for entire section of the Old Medina at Casablanca. Speaks Arabic, French and Spanish fluently.

PEREZ, Robert. Mechanic at Casablanca. Employed by U. S. Navy during the war.

ATTIA, Rence. Office worker in Casablanca.

DORRA, "Sammy". Iranian. Office worker. Well educated. Believed to be identical with DORRA, Editor-in-Chief of the Communist line newspaper Action Syndicale and with DORA, a member of the Executive Committee of the Union Generale des Syndicats Confederes du Maroc.

GRONWOLL, Kurt. Austrian refugee. Employed by the U.S. Army labor recruiting office in the Shell Building, Casablanca, during the war.

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